

Sustainable Southampton Committee

March 2, 2010

Committee Members in Attendance: Tip Brolin, Ann Reisman, Scott Carlin, Bob DeLuca, Paul Rogers, Dieter von Lehsten

Also in Attendance: Jennifer Garvey (Executive Confidential Assistant to the Supervisor, Southampton Town), Tom Neely (Director of Transportation, Southampton Town), Kate Schertel (Group for the East End), Jennifer VanBruinisse (Stony Brook Southampton for Jim Quigley)

Chairman Tip Brolin called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Tip Brolin asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting of the committee. Bob DeLuca made a motion, Ann Reisman seconded the motion and the minutes of the February 16th, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved. [Send to Tara Coady]

Recent Town Board Decisions: Tip reviewed the status of Commercial Code and the hiring of a Sustainability Coordinator. The new code was passed and requires all new commercial and municipal buildings to be designed to meet Energy Star requirements. The Town Board was unable to pass a resolution to hire a Sustainability Coordinator. This resolution was tabled due to a probable tie vote among the Town Board members, but progress continues and we hope the resolution will be reintroduced and passed at the next Board meeting on March 23.

Meetings with Town Board Members: Tip noted that efforts to have Councilmen Malone and Nuzzi address our meetings have not yet been successful. **After the March 9 special election we will invite them and the new councilmember to address the committee.**

Plan for a Plan Discussion: Ann Reisman reported that the plan subcommittee met last Tuesday to develop an overall scope for a sustainability plan, which will be loosely based on a similar document done by Annapolis, MD (a coastal location similar to Southampton).

The committee continues to follow the approach outlined by ICLEI, which could earn the town national recognition. An alternate approach is also under consideration, to be discussed at a subcommittee meeting Friday, March 5th. **At the next meeting of the full committee, the approach and plan priorities should be finalized.**

There was some discussion regarding the framing of arguments for sustainability issues, with emphasis on providing information and results to highlight the effectiveness of specific initiatives. In summary, the committee came to the consensus that the financial benefits should be included in the plan scope along with reduction of carbon emissions.

Formula Grant Status: Tip reported that the Department of Energy grant money is in the bank, awaiting use.

ESCO Audit: Tip asked for comments on the RFP for the ESCO Audit by Friday, March 5th.

Procurement Policy: Tom Neely reported that the Town's procurement policy is managed by the General Services Department. A modified policy has been circulated to the committee and members should submit comments to Tip. Our comments will be discussed at our next meeting.

Wind Energy Code: Tip noted that codes for wind energy in Suffolk County are quite varied. He asked committee members their opinion on enabling wind energy in the town. There was some discussion and points were made that efficiency is affected by many different variables. Thus, it would be difficult to determine appropriate code recommendations Town-wide that would make the technology feasible, especially for residential use. It was suggested that the Town could develop a demonstration wind energy project on town-owned land, or off shore in partnership with East Hampton.

With regard to the code for wind turbines, there was also some discussion about whether noise levels should be addressed. Tip agreed to continue working with Marty Shea to update the code appropriately.

Tom Neely asked about what the committee has done in relation to solar energy. Tip responded that the committee recommended rebates for solar energy be based on number of kilowatts produced, and that rebates be phased out over time. The Town Board never passed this proposal or Councilman Nuzzi's proposal that the rebates be increased. The discussion at the Town Board level was hampered by the fact that the rebate program was oversubscribed by a significant amount. Scott Carlin suggested reporting the number of solar installations in Southampton, to be included on the web site. **Kate Schertel agreed to visit the RELI web site to find out if they are reporting this information.**

Action Items: Tip suggested that he and Jennifer Garvey review the list of action items with Anna Throne-Holst after the meeting.

New Business: As there was no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.